

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of co-pending parent application 09/720,967, now USP 6,780,605, nationalized on January 3, 2001, which application is the national stage under 35 U.S.C. 371 of PCT/SE99/01208, filed 02 July 1999, itself based on U.S. application 60/091,741 filed July 6, 1998, and claiming priority from Swedish application 9802402-9 filed July 3, 1998.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

In our study we found that concentration of aPAF was 49.3% higher in borderline hypertension men than in normotensive men—the. When defining aPAF concentrations above mean concentration of control plus two standard deviations (i.e. $0.144 + (2 \times 0.109) = 0.362$ OD405) as positive, 15 men out of 73 were positive in the borderline hypertension group whereas only 3 men out of 73 were positive in the normotensive group. Antibodies to PAF as a marker for early atherosclerosis may be combined with additional and alternative markers for early atherosclerosis to improve the accuracy of the diagnosis, such as determining the concentrations of cholesterol, blood lipids or p-hydroxyphenylaldehyde-lysine.